

THE
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

FIRST
CENTRAL
ASSEMBLY

MINUTES

5th OCTOBER 1972

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
89 Tavistock Place, London, WC011PORT

Note: The
Reports (5)

C O N T E N T S

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Schedule I

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Schedule V

(Representatives on other bodies)

Minutes of the
FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
in
England and Wales

At London and within Westminster Central Hall,
on Thursday the 5th day of October 1966
10 o'clock a.m.

Public worship

The Assembly of the Congregational Church in England and Wales and
General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of England convened and were
constituted with prayer, Public Worship in the presence of the Rev. Dr. J. Marsh,
Buckingham, President of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church.

Uniting Declaration

The Assembly of the Congregational Church in England and Wales, on the
motion of the Revd. Dr. J. Marsh, seconded by the Revd. Dr. J. Marsh,
by the required majority, the following Resolutions:

'The Assembly of the Congregational Church in England and Wales, being
satisfied that all necessary caution has been taken in view of the
provisions of the Scheme of Union, and in view of the fact that the
Joint Committee for Conversations between our Churches as recommended by the
United Council under the name of the United Reformed Church (Congregational/Presbyterian) in England and Wales and upon the Basis, terms,
conditions and provisions of the Scheme of Union, and in view of the fact that
and Councils defined and declared in the Scheme of Union, and in view of the fact that
this United Assembly is the First General Assembly of the United Reformed
Church.'

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in England and Wales,
of the Revd. F. D. McCann, seconded by the Revd. Dr. J. Marsh,
by the required majority, the following Resolutions:

'The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in England and Wales,
being satisfied that all necessary caution has been taken in view of the
provisions of the Scheme of Union, and in view of the fact that the
Joint Committee for Conversations between our Churches as recommended by the
United Council under the name of the United Reformed Church (Congregational/Presbyterian) in England and Wales and upon the Basis, terms,
conditions and provisions, and with the members of the United Reformed Church.'

and Councils defined and declared in the Scheme and that this United Assembly is the first General Assembly of the United Reformed Church.'

The United Assembly, on the motion of the Revd. A. L. Macarthur, seconded by Mrs. R. J. Hall, adopted the following resolution:

'This United Assembly, consisting of the Assembly of the Congregational Church in England and Wales and the General Assembly of the Church of England, being satisfied that the necessary action has been taken to give legal effect to such parts of the Scheme as relate to the Joint Committee for Conversations between our Churches as required by legal sanction, declares that the United Reformed Church in England and Wales and upon the Basis, terms, conditions and provisions, and with the membership and ministry, Structure and Councils defined and declared in the Scheme is hereby formed, and that this United Assembly is the first General Assembly of the United Reformed Church.'

The President announced that the United Reformed Church had been formed in accordance with the Scheme of Union.

Constitution

The First General Assembly of the United Reformed Church was then constituted with prayer by Revd. R. J. Hall.

Roll

The Roll of the Assembly was laid on the table.

Nominations Committee

The Assembly called a Nominations Committee which was submitted by the Revd. R. J. Hall, seconded by the Revd. A. L. C. Walker, the Assembly unanimously and cordially resolved as follows:

The Assembly receives the proposal of the Joint Interim Nominations Committee, and appoints the Revd. John Huxtable, M.A., to be the Moderator of this first General Assembly.

By desire of the Assembly, the Moderator took the Chair, and delivered a suitable address.

Visitors

The Moderator welcomed visitors from other Churches and acknowledged greetings received.

The Revd. A. L. Macarthur read a message of greeting from the Prime Minister (The Rt. Hon. E. Heath).

The Assembly was honoured by the presence of the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury (Dr. M. Ramsey) and the President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (Mr. W. Thompson). They were welcomed, in the name of the Assembly, by the Moderator and, at his invitation, addressed the Assembly.

Minute Clerk

On the motion of the Moderator the Minutes of the 1st Assembly.

Standing Orders

The Revd. B. M. Priest read the Standing Orders, as set out in the Report of the Joint Committee (Appendix I), and they were read and adopted.

Non-uniting Churches

The Moderator reported the addition to the list of non-uniting churches applying for membership (Book of Discipline, Part II, Chapter 1, Section 1) of the United Reformed Church, St. Andrew, St. Andrew's, Farnham, Surrey; Fleabury Lane, Uxbridge, Wiltshire; Wincoburn, Somerset; and the United Reformed Church, Derbyshire.

Joint Committee

The Assembly considered the Report of the Joint Committee which was printed [with the following alterations: p. 12, Delete the word STANDING ORDERS the words (See Rule VIII. 1, Appendix 1), and p. 22, line 7, for "uniting ministers' read "Ministers of non-uniting churches"]; the Revd. Dr. J. M. Davidson, on the behalf, seconded by the Revd. M. L. Connell, the Report was received and the following resolutions adopted:

1. The Assembly adopts the RULES OF PROCEDURE of the United Reformed Church as set out in the report of the Joint Committee (p. 9).
2. The Assembly approves the PROPOSALS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE regarding the central Committee structure of the United Reformed Church as set out in Appendix II to the Rules of Procedure and instructs the Ministers, Ruling Elders, Nominating Committees, and officers and members of Committees, in accordance with the proposals of the Joint Committee.
3. The Assembly approves the BOUNDARIES OF PROVINCES AND DISTRICTS in accordance with the proposals of the Joint Committee as set out in Appendix III to the Rules of Procedure.
4. The Assembly approves the PROPOSALS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE regarding the FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT as set out in Appendix IV to the Rules of Procedure.
5. The Assembly resolves that the OFFICES of the United Reformed Church shall be situated at 86 TAVISTOCK PLACE, LONDON, WC1H 0RT.
6. The Assembly INSTRUCTS THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT of the United Reformed Church to make through its Central Committee, all necessary arrangements for the carrying on of the daily activities, the appointing of Auditors, and for other necessary financial arrangements.
7. The Assembly instructs the Finance and Administration Department of the United Reformed Church to make through the appropriate committees NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CARRYING ON OF NECESSARY

ministers, for the carrying on of the Church's work and the administering of the Charitable Funds of the Church.

8. The Assembly **EMPOWERS THE HONORABLE** discharge for all liabilities and other moneys relating to the Church's Charitable Funds.

9. The Assembly **RESOLVES THAT AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY** following year **DISTRICTS BE REPRESENTED** per 10 churches or part, plus one per 1000 church members or part, with an adjustment to add one in the case of each District if necessary to secure an even number of representatives.

10. The Assembly **ADOPTS THE REGULATIONS** of Procedure regarding the eligibility of ministers of other Churches as, and authorises the Admissions Committee to consider any such applications for admission to the Roll of Ministers **AS FORTHWITH APPROVED BY THE SYNOD OF THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH** in accordance with the recommendation of the Assembly of 1976.

11. The Assembly of the United Reformed Church under the provisions of the United Reformed Church Act (1962) (1) **ASSUMES THE POWERS** attributed in the **CONVEYANCE TO THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH OF ENGLAND** to the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of England, and authorises the Presbyterian Church of England Trust to hold the property on the trusts specified in the Conveyance of 1896 as modified by the United Reformed Church Act.

12. The Assembly **RECOGNISES THE REGULATIONS** of the Joint Committee as a basis for the regulation of the United Reformed Church, and instructs the Admissions Committee of the United Reformed Church to continue to operate the regulations for the admission of ministers through the appropriate Synods and Dioceses in England and Wales.

13. The Assembly noting that the Assemblies of both the uniting Churches have called attention to the need **TO CONTINUE CONSIDERATION OF A LARGE NUMBER OF VARIED ISSUES**, instructs the Clerk to lay these concerns upon the appropriate Departments and Committees of the United Reformed Church.

14. The Assembly **INSTRUCTS THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE** when established to proceed with the publication of a magazine to be called "Reform" which shall be the official journal of the United Reformed Church, and the publication of a Year Book and Handbook.

15. The Assembly **ASSURES THEM** that should they at any time wish to enter into any scheme of Union for Churches within Wales they will be free to do so, and further encourages the Synod of the Province to consider immediate proposals for the establishment of a Department of Welsh Church and Mission and for consultation with the Department of Welsh Church and Mission to make such decisions about them as may seem to be right.

Church Act, 1972, to the Executive Committee, and any appointment by that Committee and any association dissolved by Section 5 in respect of any trust to which Sections 42 (2) (b) or Section 13 (1) apply shall continue to exercise that authority as if he or they had been appointed by the Executive Committee.

Nominations Committee

The Assembly came for the second session of the joint interim Nominations Committee which was submitted by the Revd. Dr. N. Goodall. On his motion, seconded by the Revd. A. J. G. Walker, the Report was received and the following resolutions adopted:

1. The Assembly resolves that the Revd. Kenneth Slack, M.B.E., LL.D., shall be Moderator of the second General Assembly, and shall be deemed Moderator-Elect.
2. The Assembly appoints Tellers, as set out in Schedule I, to scrutinize the votes of members of the second General Assembly for the year 1974-75.
3. The Assembly appoints Moderators of Synods in the manner set out in Schedule II for the periods stated therein.
4. The Assembly appoints officers, as set out in Schedule III, to serve in the first instance for the periods stated therein.
5. The Assembly appoints the officers and members of the several Departments and Committees as set out in Schedule IV, the officers to serve for the periods stated therein.
6. The Assembly instructs the Nominations Committee to prepare a schedule for the staggered retirement of the elected members of its Committees, and to report to the next Assembly.
7. The Assembly appoints representatives to ecumenical bodies as set out in Schedule V.
8. The Assembly resolves that in cases where either of the uniting Assemblies has been represented which are not the B. or U. Assemblies, the representatives shall continue to serve until appropriate adjustments have been made in consultation with the bodies concerned.
9. The Assembly discharges the Committee with thanks.

The above mentioned Schedules are set out in the Appendix to the Minutes.

Inductions: General Secretaries

The Assembly proceeded to the induction of the Rt. Revd. J. Huxtable and the Revd. A. J. Macarthur jointly into the office of General Secretary. Induction was duly conducted, according to the prescribed form, by the Revd. Principal A. G. MacLeod.

The Assembly proceeded to the induction of the Revs. J. H. Williams, D. G. Stewart, J. W. P. Williamson, J. N. Beard, J. White, R. W. H. Jones, R. E. Taylor,

C. A. Haig, D. A. Smith, R. J. Hall, V. W. J. Lewis
Office of the Secretary
Mr. F. E. Crozier, Mr. P. W. Bush, the Revds. M. J. Davies and Dr. J. K. Gregory,
Mr. B. Harris, the Revs. W. C. Edman, C. R. Meadham, J. T. New
Sutcliffe, E. W. Reed, Mrs. G. Tall and Mr. J. W. Woomagh as far as the Office
of the Church. The Acts of Induction were duly conducted, according to the
prescribed forms, by the Rt. Revd. J. Huxtable.

Loyal Address

The Assembly called for the Loyal Address to the King which was read by the
Rt. Revd. J. Huxtable. On his motion the Address was adopted by a standing
vote.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY: We, the uniting General Assembly of the
United Reformed Church in England and Wales, now in Westminster, present
our humble duty and respectfully offer to Your Majesty the assurance of loyalty
to Your Person and Throne.

The United Reformed Church, having begun its working by the
the Congregational Church in England and Wales and the Presbyterian Church
of England, whose assemblies, meeting together, have passed the final resolutions
to consummate our long-planned union. It has been a joy to us to welcome
representatives of many of the Churches of the British Council of Churches,
Canterbury, as President of the British Council of Churches, has brought the
good wishes of the wider Christian fellowship of these islands. Only the Prime
Minister's journey to Italy prevented his presence amongst us, and his message
expressed as of the interest of the Church of the Commonwealth.

Later this day we proceeded to Westminster Abbey, for a service of thanksgiving
and dedication. It was a privilege to have the Government to gather in that national
shrine for all its associations, most of all as the scene of
Majesty and of Your Majesty's predecessors.
desire for a true and fruitful unity amongst all Your Majesty's people.

Deeply conscious as we are of Your Majesty's duty
of the nation, and your work for the good of the people,
that Your Majesty will rejoice with us in the gift of greater unity,
granted to us in this, the first act of Christian reunion in Britain, the
international boundaries, and that Your Majesty will join in our
may be led more and more to manifest the spirit of unity, in a word, to
much fear and hope.

It is therefore with deep gratitude to your Majesty
and unceasing concern for the good of the Church that we make one of the
first acts of Christian reunion in Britain, the
of this Humble Address to the King.

We are,

With the most profound respect

In the name of the General Assembly of the
United Reformed Church in England and Wales,

Your Majesty's faithful and obedient servants

JOHN HUXTABLE,

ARTHUR L. MACARTHUR, Clerk

Close of Assembly,

The General Assembly, having in the good presence of the people, finished its business to an end. It is desired that the next Assembly be held at the Temple, London, on the 10th day of July, 1679.

The proceedings were approved with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

Signed at the City of London, the 10th day of July, 1679.
England and Wales, by

..... Moderator

..... Clerk

APPENDIX

Schedules of Work

SCHEDULE I

MO

1972-73 Revd John Huxtable, M.A.
1973-74 Revd Ken Witherspoon, M.B.E., LL.D.
Tellers Mr T. S. Davitt, Mr R. Fallatt, Mr K. W. Iboroda

SCHEDULE II

MODERATORS OF SYNODS

I (Northampton)	Revd J. Huxtable (1972/3)
II (North Western)	Revd J. Stewart (1977)
III (Merseyside)	Revd J. W. P. Williamson (1979)
IV (Yorkshire)	Revd J. White (1977)
V (East Midlands)	Revd J. White (1977)
VI (West Midlands)	Revd R. W. Llewellyn Jones (1977)
VII (Eastern)	Revd R. H. Taylor (1979)
VIII (South West)	Revd C. A. [unclear] (1979)
IX (London)	Revd C. A. [unclear] (1979)
X (Thames Valley)	Revd C. A. [unclear] (1979)
XI (Southern)	Revd M. J. Lewis (1979)
XII (Wales and Monmouthshire)	Revd M. J. Lewis (1979)

SCHEDULE III

FULL TIME OFFICERS

Joint General Secretaries and Clerks of General Assembly—since 1970, Revs
J. Huxtable and A. I. Madge, Arthur
Administrative Secretary—Mrs S. T. [unclear]
Consultant Administrative Secretary—[unclear]
Legal Advisers—Mr. P. A. [unclear]

CHURCH LIFE

Departmental Secretary—Revd H. O. Latham, 30th June 1975
Secretary for Mission—Revd C. K. Meacham, September 1975
Secretary for Christian Education—[unclear]
Youth Secretary—Revd M. J. Davies, 20th June 1977
Youth Leadership Training Officer—[unclear]
Teacher Training Officer—Mr. M. D. Woodmough, 30th June 1977

WORLD CHURCH AND MISSION DEPARTMENT

Associate Secretary—Revd B. Anderson, 30th June 1977

CHURCH AND SOCIETY DEPARTMENT

Departmental Secretary—Revd D. [unclear], 30th June 1977

Revd C. C. Franks
 Mrs. J. G. G...
 Revd J. W. G...
 Mrs. G. W. Hall
 Revd. Keith...
 Mrs. ... Houston
 Rev. J. M. F. ...
 Revd J. H. ...
 Revd H. Jacquet
 Revd Dr. ...
 Revd. ...
 and the Provincial Moderators.

Revd R. K. Stones
 ...
 Mrs. E. M. ...
 ...
 Mr. K. ...
 Revd F. W. ...
 ...
 Revd ...
 ...
 ...

Westminster-Chesham, Committee

Revd David ...
 Revd Professor F. G. Healey
 Revd J. Luxtable
 Mr. I. T. Jameson
 TOGETHER WITH THE ...
 Board of Studies (Westminster-Chesham)

Revd Principal A. G. MacLeod
 Revd S. E. Newport
 Professor W. ...
 ...

Revd D. W. Ager
 Revd P. Anderson
 Revd L. E. Fenn
 Revd Dr. ...
 Revd Dr. J. K. Gregory
 Revd G. E. Harris
 together with ...
 AND FORMED BY THE GOVERNORS OF ...
 Nominations ...

...
 Revd Peter ...
 ...
 Revd H. S. Ross
 Mr. J. M. Ross

Committee

Chairman—Professor ...
Secretary—The Rev. ...

Principal, Westminster College
 President, Chesham College
 Mr. H. ...
 Professor G. R. ...
 The Rev. ...
 Professor ...
 Professor W. K. C. Guthrie
 The Revd John ...
 together ...

...
 The Revd ...
 ...
 ...
 The Revd ...

SUPPLEMENTARY MINISTRIES

Chairman—Revd M. ...
Secretary—Revd F. R. Tomes

Miss S. Brauburn
 Mr. ...

Revd M. G. Dunford
 Rev. ...

Miss A. ...
 ...

DOCTRINE AND WORSHIP

Chairman—Revd Dr. F. B. Routley—1979
Secretary—Revd D. Macdonald—1977

- Mrs. C. Brock
- Revd Principal C. B. C.
- Revd D. C. M. Gaillard
- Revd T. C. Micklem
- Revd J. M. Todd
- Revd H. M. Spingbich
- Revd Dr. D. A. Vren

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chairman—Rev. C. G. ...
Secretary—The Christian Education Secretary,

- Revd W. B. ...
- Mrs. R. Goodfellow
- Miss N. A. F. Hibberd
- Revd D. ...
- Revd D. ...
- Mrs. W. ...

YOUTH WORK

Chairman—Revd K. ...
Secretary—The Youth Secretary

- Revd Gillian M. ...
- Mr. W. E. ...
- MR G.W. DUNCAN
- Members under 25
- Mr. D. P. Baker
- Miss R. Brett
- Miss F. ...
- Miss S. Gravestock
- Revd K. ...
- Mr. P. K. ...
- Miss K. ...
- Mr. D. ...
- Mr. Bill ...
- Mr. G. ...
- Miss ...

CHILDREN'S WORK

Chairman—Rev. D. ...

- Miss M. Burnie
- Miss D. K. ...
- Revd P. L. ...
- Miss E. ...
- Revd D. A. ...
- Mrs. D. ...
- Mrs. K. ...
- Mrs. D. ...
- Mrs. D. ...

WORLD AND MISCELLANEOUS

Chairman—Revd B. M. Pratt—1979
Secretary—The General Secretary,

GENERAL COMMITTEE

- Provincial Representative—1979
- I Revd R. B. Rance
- II Revd W. A. Christine
- III Revd ...
- IV Mr. W. ...
- V Mrs. J. ...
- VI Revd C. J. H. ...
- VII Revd David Geddes
- VIII Revd C. D. ...
- IX Revd C. E. ...
- X Mr. C. ...
- XI Mrs. H. W. P. ...

together with the ...
Revd Dr. N. Goodall, Mrs. A. G. MacLeod, Mr. N. ...
The President and the Treasurer of the former Presbyterian Women's ...
Association ...

MISSIONARY AND EQUIPMENT

Chairman—
Secretary—The Associate Secretary

- Revd D. J. D. Baker
- Revd G. E. Beck
- Revd P. S. Chesney
- Revd D. P. C. Geddes
- Revd C. D. Harris
- Revd R. H. ...
- Revd A. Whitbread
- Miss P. F. Pogrich

MISSIONARY AND EQUIPMENT WORK

Chairman—Mr J. B. M. Gillsby 1879
Secretary—The Associate Secretary

- Revd R. R. Bance
- Mrs. M. O. Berridge
- Revd W. A. Simonds
- Miss V. A. Collins
- Revd B. Dawson
- Revd G. ...
- Revd T. ...
- Mr. F. P. Long
- Revd ...
- Revd E. ...
- Revd H. ...

MISSION AND OTHER PARTS

Chairman—
Secretary—The Associate Secretary

- Revd T. H. Brown
- Mrs. C. Parks
- Mr. B. Evans
- Revd ...
- Revd ...
- Revd ...

CHURCH AND ...

Chairman—Revd. ...
Secretary—The ...

CENTRAL ...

Provincial Representative

- I Revd. D. O. Dull
- II Revd. A. C. ...
- III ...
- IV Mrs. C. Neshitt
- V Mrs. Banks
- VI ...
- VII M. A. Ows
- VIII ...
- IX ...
- X ...
- XI ...
- XII ...

together with Mr. J. S. Baker, the Revd. ...
Mrs. ...

FINANCE AND ...

Chairman—Mr. E. R. Farmer
(Hon. Treasurer of the Church)
Secretary—The Departmental

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Provincial Representatives—

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| I. Mrs. M. J. Frank | VII. Mr. M. Foster |
| II. Rev. W. L. Louth | VIII. Mr. W. E. Hurst |
| III. Mr. R. L. Twinnow | IX. Mr. R. E. Harding |
| IV. Mr. J. E. M. Gilbey | X. Mr. R. S. Martin |
| V. Revd H. W. Green | XI. Mr. J. H. Jones |
| VI. Mr. H. E. Greening | XII. Miss M. Jones |

together with the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. J. P. W. and Sir Sydney Caryn.

TREASURERSHIP

Chairman—Mr. K. W. Thwaites—1975
Secretary—The Departmental Secretary

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Mr. F. H. B... | Mr. J. D. G... |
| Mr. F. H. B... | Mr. J. E. Hooper |
| Mr. S. Burwell | Mr. T. W. Macdonald |
| Sir Sydney Caryn | Mr. L. Mac... |
| Mr. S. A. Cumming | MR. ALAN WILSON |
| Mrs. M. Dickerson | one vacancy |

MAIN

Chairman—Revd. W. J. ...
Secretary—The Departmental Secretary

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Mr. F. H. Bennett | Mr. J. P. ... | Revd. n. Parker |
| Mr. S. A. Chapman | Revd Jessie Halfpenny | Revd. B. ... |
| Mr. N. W. ... | Revd. M. ... | Revd. ... |
| Mrs. G. Evans | Mr. C. McOrie | Revd W. J. Samuel |
| Mr. J. E. M. Gilbey | Mrs. N. Mans... | Mr. A. D. Th... |

WELFARE AND EMERGENCIES

Chairman—Mr. P. J. S. J. Green—1977
Secretary—The General Secretary

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Mr. H. E. Greening | Revd J. Histon | Revd B. Boite |
| Mr. I. K. Hawkins | Mrs. J. Selwyn | |

UNIFIED APPEAL

Chairman—Mr. C. Vaughan-Davies—1973
Secretary—Mr. W. Paterson—1977

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Mr. T. C. Eyster | Revd L. A. Fleming | Revd W. J. ... |
| Mr. S. Chapman | Mr. R. K. ... | Mr. ... |
| Revd F. G. Wilson Dennett | Revd S. O. Jones | Mrs. M. ... |
| Mr. M. ... | | |

